Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 01365 161038Z

10
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 106714
O R 152350Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3958
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1365

FOR ASS'T SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR, OAS, BR
SUBJECT: OAS CHARTER REFORM

REFS: A. STATE 18860, B. STATE 022439, C. STATE 027323

1. IN MAKING THE PRESENTATION TO FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA ON FEBRUARY 10 OF THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN REFS A AND B, I GAVE HIM A COPY OF MY TALKING POINTS, WHICH COVERED THE MATERIAL IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL.

2. PLEASE NOTE THAT I DID NOT RPT NOT REFER, EITHER IN THE TALKING POINTS PAPER OR IN MY SUPPLEMENTARY ORAL REMARKS, TO THE QUESTION OF CANADIAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE OAS.

3. SILVEIRA'S PRELIMINARY COMMENTS -- HE WANTS TO STUDY THE US SUGGESTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S VISIT -- CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:
A. HE THOUGHT THE US IDEAS "GOOD" AND MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
B. HE TOO CONSIDERS THE PERMANENT COUNCIL TO BE A NEGATIVE AND ESSENTIALLY USELESS ELEMENT THAT SHOULD BE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 01365 161038Z

ELIMINATED OR RE-SHAPED. IT HAS VERY LITTLE USEFUL WORK

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TO DO; IT IS DOMINATED BY IRRESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATIVES (HE MENTIONED PITTY BY NAME); THE AMBASSADORS FROM THE "MAJOR COUNTIRES" ARE TURNED OFF BY THE IRRESPONSIBLE TYPES AND REMAIN ESSENTIALLY PASSIVE.

C. HE WOULD HAVE TO GIVE THOUGHT TO THE ARTICLE 8 QUESTION AND THE ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE. (THIS WAS NOT SAID IN A NEGATIVE TONE; I READ IT RATHER AS AN INDICATION OF LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED. HE ASKED, FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT ARTICLE 8 PROVIDED.)

D. HE LOOKS ON THE MINI-STATE PROBLEM AS A VERY DIFFICULT ONE, AND HE THOUGHT THAT THE US PROPOSAL WAS AN INTERESTING AND USEFUL ATTEMPT TO FACE IT.

E. HIS OWN VIEW WAS THAT THE PROPER WAY TO ADDRESS THE GENERAL QUESTION OF REFORM AND THE SPECIFIC DETAILS WAS TO DECIDE FIRST ON PRINCIPLES AND IDEAS AND THEN TRANSLATE THOSE INTO ARTICLES, RATHER THAN TO TRY TO WORK NEW AND CHANGED CONCEPTS INTO EXISTING TEXTS.

F. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE PC'S COMPLETION OF ITS REVIEW AND THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD BE USED FOR CONSULTATIONS AMONG INTERESTED STATES FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRYING TO COME UP WITH REALLY MEANINGFUL IDEAS.

G. IN NOTING MY REFERENCE TO BLANCO'S POSSIBLE INTEREST IN GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO WERE BEING CONSULTED (MVD 0472) HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT HAD ANY WORD FROM BLANCO BUT WOULD OF COURSE BE GLAD TO TALK TO HIM. SILVEIRA ADDED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT BRAZIL, "BECAUSE OF ITS WEIGHT", SHOULD TAKE ANY INITIATIVE WITH THE OTHERS.

H. HE OBSERVED THAT THE BRAZILIAN REPRESENTATION ON THE PC HAD BEEN ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LINE HE HAD DISCUSSED IN THE MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD.

4. SILVEIRA'S COMMENTS AND ATTITUDE WERE POSITIVE BUT GENERAL AND TENTATIVE. THIS POSTURE REFLECTS THE FACTS THAT THE OAS AND THE ISSUE OF ITS REFORM ARE NOT BURNING ISSUES FOR BRAZILIAN POLICY AND THAT HE HIMSELF IS NOT ANYWHERE NEARLY SO INTERESTED OR STEEPED IN THE OAS AND ITS MYSTIQUE AS THE OTHER THREE FOREIGN MINISTERS APPROACHED.
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 01365 161038Z

I BELIEVE THE BRAZILIAN POSITION WITH THE SECRETARY WILL BE CAUTIOUSLY POSITIVE BUT WILL STAY SHORT OF ACCEPTING ANY LEAD ROLE.
CRIMMINS

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